Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, for claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented) A drive unit for switching a circuit breaker on and off, comprising:

a reversible d.c. motor;

a switching device including two separately drivable and interlocked reversing switches, each of the reversing switches being assigned to a respective direction of rotation of the d.c. motor, contacts of the reversing switches performing a current reversal on windings of the d.c. motor as is necessary to reverse the direction of rotation of the d.c. motor;

power contactors, contacts of the power contactors having a switching capacity for load switching, the reversing switches and the power contacts assigned to each direction of rotation being formed by a respective low-power relay, each low-power relay including at least two electrically isolated relay contacts connectable in parallel; and

an equalizing capacitor connected in parallel to each of the relay contacts of each low-power relay.

6. (Previously Presented) The drive unit according to claim 5, wherein the circuit breaker includes at least one of a disconnecting switch and a grounding switch of a medium-voltage switchgear.

7. (Previously Presented) The drive unit according to claim 5, wherein the relay contacts are implemented by switch contacts that can be blown-out magnetically.

8. (Previously Presented) The drive unit according to claim 5, wherein each equalizing capacitor is designed for a capacitance range corresponding to 10^2 to 10^5 times a value of a capacitance of the relay contacts in an open position.

9. (Previously Presented) The drive unit according to claim 5, wherein the low-power relays are arranged with the equalizing capacitors on a common circuit board, moving parts of the relay contacts are connected to a voltage terminal of the circuit broad, and fixed parts of the relay contacts are connected to a motor terminal of the circuit board as a function of direction of rotation.

10. (New) The drive unit according to claim 5, wherein the d.c. motor is configured to rotate in a clockwise direction and a counter-clockwise direction.